



ATMA MALIK EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS' AS A ROLE MODEL - A CASE STUDY

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ABSTRACT

Knowledge was central to the ancient Indian traditions. The way of disseminating the knowledge & learning through 'Gurukul Systems' was unique in many ways. For the educational institutions blending of ancient traditional education system with the contemporary curriculum like The Atma Malik Educational Institutions can serve as a role model. The purpose of the paper is to investigate the emergence & basis of Vedic-Yogic Institutional Vision, Values, Leadership, & Social Responsibility at The Atma Malik Educational Institutions to set the roadmap for the educational institutions. To answer the question the qualitative research method of case study was used. Data collected through the unstructured interviews of Leaders & Top Management, & also by analysing institutional Websites & Literature. The results have shown how the Vedic-Yogic Institutional Vision emerges, unfolds Leadership, Values, Social Responsibility & transforms for greater goods of society in case The Atma Malik Educational Institutions. From this live illustration, presentation of an insight for the educational institutions attempted.

KEYWORDS: Indian Knowledge System, Gurukul, Education, Atma Malik

"By blending the ideals of our 'Gurukul' systems & integrating them with present facilities, education can be provided more systematically beyond mere information. Further research is required into techniques of sustainable education with overhaul of current system" (Madhekar, 2020). Then, "How the objective of Gurukul training can be accomplished in modern context without just copying the past?" (Sengupta, 2021). There can be proposal for it using live example. "Ignorance is a source of human suffering & its remedy is knowledge or learning" (Rani & Gupta, 2020). "Knowledge was integral to Indian civilization & its tradition constituted & maintained in the frame of inner self via oral culture" (Roul, 2020). The foreign invaders regularly destroyed India's traditional educational systems. "An effective education should deliver comprehensive knowledge, comprising of – Dhi / Intelligence, Dharma / Values, Daksha – Skills like in Gurukul" (Pareek, 2021). "Complete acknowledgment of self for freedom of the spirit from the samsara was critical to Indian knowledge traditions" (Mamgain, 2021). "The highest education makes our life in harmony with all existence through expansion of consciousness" (Roy, 2021). Such a foundation of consciousness based education is central to A.M.E.I. The Indian educational institutions & government are striving for educational excellence. This paper aims to describe the emergence & basis of Vedic-Yogic Institution's 'Practical Philosophy' through the case study of 'AMEI' as the role model for educational institutions & thereby incorporating above concerns.

Today's world has become complex, & multipolar. Contradictions are felt between high technology based developments; luxurious living, etc., vis-a-vis lack of basic living requirements. Ignorance of mind & body's satisfaction is common in these divergences. Everyone is in the death race of earning resources for living, & more money making for life's comforts, at the cost of real life values of balanced & universal living. Leadership's contextual lack the value based responsibilities has hampered the society. Ironically humanity is on the right path but to a wrong destination of false relations, improper coordination & non-cooperation which have led to violence & human degradation.

"In drastic & problematic situations we pray to God in holy places but real worship is transcending desires. People are least concerned about the inner consciousness of soul's presence in one's heart. It plays a key role in our existence of life & meaningful living. The soul which is without any form, shape & size termed as God's of all Gods maintains its existence being omnipresent, omnipotent, & remains critical for one's life" (Atma Malik Dhyanteeth, n.d.). Without it the art of living life is detrimental & highly panicking. In order to realize the soul, the only pure & clear process is to carry out the life's aspects through spirituality with deep, rigorous meditation & yogic practices. The current outputs & outcomes of educational institutions in society are tragic & worrisome. These institutions are also part & parcel of the mechanism, process & resulting subsequent problems. It is a high time for them to agree, accept, & be responsible & accountable for the wide scale societal failures. Further, necessary corrections can be achieved by imitating the right role models like AMEI. In sports, the accuracy & technical supremacy can only be achieved by rigorous practice & hard work duly supported by expert coaching. Likewise, for spirituality; the process to attend the inner consciousness i.e. the soul reality residing in our heart is through sincere meditation & yogic practices. Only when one is under the prime vicinity of a spiritual Guru, the game or the event of spirituality can achieve perfection. The

spiritual coach practices, preaches, & then guides the values of life through perfect meditational process of attending the soul with unique way of worshipping. In this process of spiritual excellence by meditational practices, a strong base of yogic activities helps develop strength & endurance.

Childhood a blank slate – "Over 85% of a cumulative brain development occurs prior to the age of 6" (National Education Policy 2020, 2020). In childhood the imitation is maximum, the blank mind slate is the best opportunity to write down everything which is essential for one's good life.

Impact of Yoga-Meditation on Childhood – Considering the above fact & aspect of percolating the knowledge of Yoga-Meditation in childhood, it was decided by (V.J.M.A.T.), to start with establishment of various schools in Maharashtra state. It can help children building their vision of life, value inculcation, & leadership abilities. When these practices get related to education in childhood they can have a profound impact. This can enable the process of education raise to its heights of quality. The students facilitated to be aim oriented, to discriminate between good & bad, to follow ethical life, inculcate respect towards each other, & also to be responsible son or to be dutiful citizens.

"The topic of the all-encompassing social responsibility of all types of higher education institutions is still not part of their practice & also of mainstream research" (Tetreva et al., 2021). Being part of society, educational institutions can't be 'the island unto themselves'. "The aim of education is to achieve full human potential, development of a just & equitable society, & promoting national development (NEP 2020)" (Swain, 2021, pp. 45–46). "Character building & improvement of civic responsibilities & social values was central to Vedic education" (Mamgain, 2021). "By inculcating Indian ethics, morals, & values, schools have a crucial part to play in influencing the professional & social development of an individual" (Sharma, 2021). To reap the all-inclusive benefits & to fill the narrated historic gaps the N.E.P. 2020 visualized – "An education system rooted in Indian ethos that contributes directly to transforming India, that is Bharat" (National Education Policy 2020, 2020). Conscious people in turn change one's life with success, satisfaction & maintenance of healthy relations leading towards upright humanity. The total overall impact can bring about a positive social responsibility in creating a society of the same nature. Such a crowd leads to a conscious population. Such a population leads to a country to be evaluated for its initial development of the inner collective mind-body consciousness. Far ahead of its times, & formal policy, AMEI is working towards these goals in much broader context. It can lead to a peaceful earth with values, leadership & social responsibilities. This is a task & process of creating individuals, citizens or human beings who can predict & propose India as 'Vishwa Guru' ('Universal Guide' in spiritual aspects & peaceful leadership).

The Gurukul System, a need – Today's professionalism has got restricted to follow the routine without any outcome & bonding. This has happened pertaining to imparting education without ethics of life & coexistence. The earlier Gurukul system was under the guidance & in the close vicinity of Saints, who were sacred personalities totally devoted to the cause. They carried out the education with simplicity through a natural process of living. In this system, the child got education with spirituality which can be understood through various examples in the

ancient Indian history & mythology. The Gurukul system provides education of self-dependence from the childhood stage, which is very essential in one's life. It also develops a strong sense of decision making, analysis, evaluation of our dynamic world.

"In imposed modern education system, abilities like life skills were neglected & experiential method of teaching got confined to classrooms & the link with nature got broken" (Gaikwad & Kulkarni, 2021). Contrastingly, latest research advocates, direct experience of "learning from nature 'as critical to development as formal education'" (Lyle & Snowber, 2021). "The combination of 'Para-Apara Vidya' (transcendental & material science) only can give perfect education" (Pandey, 2021). Thus blending of modern & ancient education is necessary. "In Gurukula (Guru's family) the child became its part, surrendered to diminish one's ego, understood interdependence, & got education through various means as per capabilities, in natural environment" (Dhalival, 2020). "Research in the ideology of combining Indian education ideals from Vedic times along with modern infrastructure has shown to have promising results" (Madhekar, 2020). It is a truly student centric approach to education. This is wisely & sincerely practised by AMEI.

Materials & Method

"Unlike other research methods, a standard catalog of case study designs has yet to emerge. Researcher needs sufficient access to the data for the potential case. Key components of case study research design are – Research questions; its propositions, if any; its case (s); the logic linking the data to the propositions; & the criteria for interpreting the findings" (Yin, 2018). Case study method used to describe the emergence & basis of Vedic-Yogic Institution's 'Practical Philosophy' through AMEI as the role model for educational institutions. This is a single case, holistic approach, & descriptive type study. Research Question - How the emergence & basis of Vedic-Yogic Institutional Vision, Values, Leadership, & Social Responsibility of AMEI is the role model for the educational institutions?

Similar researches like (Madhekar, 2020) used random sampling & self-structured inquiry form to survey & to find respondent's perceptions about the blending of contemporary & Gurukul systems. (Roy, 2021) used method like "Random sampling, recorded interviews, survey method, to gain mostly qualitative data in nature based on field observation & informal discussions. Self-reporting technique & observational technique were employed along with secondary sources to gather information". This helped these investigators to gather descriptive data from students & teachers in natural settings. Additionally current study involves primary data through interview of living master. The secondary data collected by means of Sadguru's essence of philosophy, teachings, the eternal message, the Divine Dictum (Amrut Vani), the monthly magazine 'Prabhu Sandesh', periodic Satsangs (Life nourishing gatherings of sacred people) & books, & also from the Websites of Atma Malik Dhyani-Yog Mission (AMDYM), & A.M.E.I., & from the concerned authorities. The qualitative research method employed for the direct, oral, unstructured, interview of His Divinity Shri Gurudev Atma Malik (Sadguru Mauli).

- "Nearly 15 schools of various mediums & syllabus functions all over Maharashtra, Gujarat, & Karnataka started since 1995. Nearly 15000 students are educating from KG to PG level. That also created Atma Malik Educational & Sport Complex" (Atma Malik Education Institutes, n.d.). AMDYM is associated with Maharashtra State Yoga Federation as its Chairmanship. The federation works for students & teacher's daily yogic practices & preparing them for various competitions. The data interpreted in context to research question with maximum attempt to preserve the essence of pure philosophy, & experiences of the respondents.
- **Findings** - AMDYM with its educational institutes is shouldering the task of conscious societal building under the eminent, efficient guidance, & responsibility of spiritual identity of Sadguru. His divinity understood the importance of the inner consciousness of mind i.e. the soul reality upon a rigorous meditation & yogic practices & experiencing their benefits. A small seedling of this inner consciousness with spiritual base has grown into a huge tree. Today this base provides a support to make life unique in the process of education, living hood, healthcare, & social uniformity. The message & the enlightened divinity of the Sadguru are being utilized to spread vital life aspects since student's childhood. Considering the fact that these teachings gets percolated to the roots, & thereby giving fruits of same kind, & enables sweeping changes in the society for many generations. Under the guidance & responsibility of Sadguru it resulted in the formation of Vishwatmak Jangli Maharaj Ashram Trust (V.J.M.A.T.), at Kokamthan in Maharashtra, India.
- The AMEI tries its level best to upgrade & follow Gurukul school system. The academics functions for facilitating the educational capabilities as per student's interest. Under the guidance of Sadguru & various other eminent disciples, along with the regular contemporary curriculum & syllabus is clubbed or attached with Spiritual activities such as Meditation-Yoga practices.
- Simultaneously completing the obligatory aspect of education as per its yearly syllabus, & various spiritual practices AMEI undertake -
 - A unique way of conducting assembly with a touch of spirituality through prayers, chanting mantras, & practices of Pranayam & Meditation.
 - Organization of Yoga-Meditation sessions for students & teachers

in the daily routine & especially under the guidance of holy Saints.

- Conduction of holy gathering (Satsang) & spiritual lectures in presence of Saints & by eminent personalities.
- Maintenance of holistic atmosphere.
- Maintenance of a pure, vegetarian, & balance diet.

In the fields of Education, Arts, Music, Dance, & Drama & Sports & in normal living, through result orientation, blend of education & spirituality has enabled AMEI to attend & achieve various goals at the highest level of its expectation & it is a continuous process. The 'Swa-anubhav'(self-experience) based preaching of Sadguru forms the basis for the Vision, Aim & Objective of A.M.D.-Y.M. & A.M.E.I. –

- To carry on Yog-Meditation based highly developed educational process to create a peaceful India.
- Dhyani Karo Dhyani Bano -Practice Meditation & be a Meditator to live through the inner consciousness of mind-soul.
- Jo je vanchil to te laho - May whatsoever aspirations of each one, those be fulfilled.
- Sabka Malik Atma - Gods of all Gods is the Soul, which resides in our heart & can be attended through rigorous Yog-Meditation practices.
- Meditation means Wordless Knowledge Study.
- Meditation means World Level Knowledge.

Results & Discussion

Based on the identified sources of data for this study, subsequent data collection & later analysis it can be noted that - The practical philosophy of AMDYM & AMEI significantly reflects in its expansions, work achievements, & societal contributions beyond to be captured by mere quantitative parameters. They function with necessary regular current educational aspects merged with consciousness. It has helped to create students with characteristics like - maintain high aims, potentials of inculcating moral values of life, hard work, high patience mind, educationist, career oriented & successful noble human beings, & citizens with satisfaction. To create a crowd which doesn't produce any disturbance for the society rather helps in the development of the society. It is experienced that after undergoing such an education process, students continue to have the same life process of practicing Yog-Meditation activities in their daily routine. The concept of 'Sound Mind resides in a Sound Body' is fully being satisfied. This has been proved on continuous basis by the AMEI alumni as emerging eminent Engineers, Doctors, Architects, Pharmacists, Agriculturists, Administrators & many others.

Today's education imparts qualification based study which cannot satisfy all the aspects of life in its living. If it combines with spirituality, it is possible to make a difference to form such a unique country along with diversity still underlining better way of living a peaceful life in new generation. This can surely lead to emergence of Vedic era institutes which helps in maintaining values of mind & soul in one's life, inculcate excellent leadership & administration which further nurtures the social duty to form a unique society. It is a life to leave with meaning. This may help to prosper humanity, in terms of harmony, tolerance, & satisfaction. It can lead from one Indian to other Indians to make a contribution to the country, & being an asset to the whole world. The day is not far when there spreads all the peace & world is devoid of war. Being the base of such unique way of education India can be ultimately emerge out as the 'Vishwaguru' or spiritual super power all over whole world. AMDYM & AMEI stands for living the above facts. It has given a new vision to one's living & created a better impact on the society. The weakness of case study method used here is its generalizability.

Conclusion

Yoga-Dhyana based Vision positively influences the practical applications, outputs, & outcomes by means of Vision Values, Leadership, & Social Responsibility. The AMEI can be the living role model for the educational institutions. AMEI can also poses as an ideal for the organizations globally & a roadmap for the leadership across ideologies. The study can be a vital & a valued documentation of real example of stability amidst increased chaos in the education. For the educational institutions, the context is set for role modelling on numerous parameters starting from AMEI's Vision, Values, Leadership, & Social Responsibility.

Recommendation – The mandatory improvising of contemporary syllabus of qualification based education & spiritual aspects such as Yoga-Meditation practices, to bring about a change in the world is highly recommended. A new practice of creating citizens for India via this way should become a universal norm.

Assurance – AMDYM & its AMEI assure all the cooperation in framing the said syllabus till its implementation & anxiously awaits with pious blessings of Sadguru a positive response from the concern educational departments towards creating a new form of educational pattern to enable a new world of Humanity. Atma Malik.

Annexure – Photos of activities performed in A.M.E.I. & Amrutvani (Divine Dictum).

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Annexure

Amrutvani (Divine Message)

The only truth in this universe according to Indian Philosophy is the **Atma** (Soul, Self, Universal Energy, Consciousness, or God) that is the sole reality. Everything else is perishable. Innumerable changes happen in nature, but the **Atma** always remains constant. It neither has a beginning, nor an end. It is immortal.

The **Atma** (Soul) existed before the concept of any other form of God. Contemplation and meditation on the **Atma** even for a moment can lead us towards the experience that we and the **Atma** are one (Self-realization). This is the same state we see to achieve by the practice of Yoga.

The **Atma** (Sole) is present in one and all and resides in our heart. The easiest and the most effective way to attain the state of Yoga is to meditate on the **Atma** in our heart. Since the **Atma** is formless without any physical properties it is easier if we meditate on form. The most effective being that of the **Sadguru** one who is constantly absorb in **Atma** and by constant meditation on his form in once heart we surely lead to self-realization.

The **Atma** (Soul) is omnipotent, omnipresent and omniscient. It does not belong to any particular country, religion or cast. Every human being can attain God by means of worship and contemplation on the **Atma**. Jesus Christ, Prophet Mohammed, Shri Krishna, Guru Nanak, Lord Mahavir, Prophet Zarathustra, Lord Buddha and other saints throughout history all attained self-realization becoming one with God by constant meditation and contemplation on **Atma**.

